United Nations ST/IC/2009/21

Secretariat

24 April 2009

Information circular*

To: Members of delegations and staff

From: The Under-Secretary-General for Management

Subject: **First day of issue, 7 May 2009: "World Heritage — Germany" stamps and prestige booklets, new Geneva and Vienna postal stationery and new Essen special event show sheet**

Commemorative stamps

1. On Thursday, 7 May 2009, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of six commemorative stamps and three prestige booklets on the theme "World Heritage — Germany". This is the fourteenth United Nations stamp issue to illustrate World Heritage sites. It is the twelfth in a series of stamps and prestige booklets focusing on either one specific World Heritage site or a group of World Heritage sites in one geographical location.

2. The sites selected in this series are: Town Hall and Roland on the Marketplace of Bremen, Aachen Cathedral, Wartburg Castle, Monastic Island of Reichenau, Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin, and Luther Memorials in Eisleben and Wittenberg.

3. The stamps will be issued in denominations of $0.44, $0.98, SwF 1.00, SwF 1.30, €0.65 and €1.40. The stamps were designed by Grit Fiedler (Germany) and were printed in offset by Joh. Enschedé Stamps Security Printers B.V. (Netherlands).

(United States equivalents: SwF 1.00: $0.86; SwF 1.30: $1.12; €0.65: $0.83 and €1.40: $1.79, subject to exchange-rate fluctuation.)

* Expiration date of the present information circular: 7 August 2009.

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Prestige booklets

4. Also on 7 May 2009, UNPA will issue its twelfth set of prestige booklets. The three booklets on the theme "World Heritage — Germany" have a common design based on the six commemorative stamps for this issue, and each contains a total of 16 pages of text and 6 pages of 4 stamps each, for a total of 24 mint stamps in either United States, Swiss or Austrian denominations. The booklets were designed by Deborah Halperin (United Nations, New York) and are priced at $9.00, SwF 9.60 and €7.80.

(United States equivalents: SwF 9.60: $8.27 and €7.80: $9.97, subject to exchange-rate fluctuation.)

Special limited edition — joint issue silk first-day cover

5. To commemorate the 2009 "World Heritage — Germany" joint issue stamp series with Deutsche Post, a limited-edition first-day cover in silk has been produced by UNPA. The cover features the design of the Luther Memorials in Eisleben and Wittenberg. The United Nations €1.40 "World Heritage — Germany" stamp and the €1.40 Deutsche Post stamp are affixed and cancelled by each respective postal administration with the first-day-of-issue postmark. The covers are numbered consecutively from 1 to 7,000.

New Vienna and Geneva postal stationery

6. On 7 May 2009, UNPA will issue new Vienna and Geneva postal stationery. Two Vienna pre-stamped envelopes will be issued in denominations of €0.65 and €1.40. Both designs feature photographs of the Vienna International Centre and Donaupark in Vienna. One Vienna postcard will be issued in the denomination of €0.65 and features a photograph of the United Nations Office at Vienna.

7. Three Geneva postcards will be issued in the denominations of SwF 0.85, SwF 1.00 and SwF 1.90 and depict the following:

- SwF 0.85 — Ceiling sculpture in the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Chamber at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, designed by Miquel Barceló;

- SwF 1.00 — *The Broken Chair*, by Daniel Berset, a memorial to the victims of landmines, in front of the United Nations Office at Geneva;
- SwF 1.80 — Palais des Nations, Geneva.

New Essen special event show sheet

8. On 7 May 2009, UNPA will issue a new, personalized special event show sheet to commemorate the 2009 Essen stamp show in Germany. The sheet is composed of 10 stamps in the denomination of €0.65 and is priced at $14.95 per sheet. The sheet is designed by Deborah Halperin (United Nations, New York) and Eduardo Sinoy (United Nations, Vienna).

General information

9. For the convenience of collectors, UNPA at Headquarters will provide prepared and cancelled New York, Geneva and Vienna first-day covers on the UNPA official first-day cachets **only**. Members of delegations and the staff can obtain these items on Thursday, 7 May, at the following locations:

(a) The UNPA sales counter in the concourse of the General Assembly Building, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

(b) A temporary sales counter located on the east side of the Secretariat lobby in front of the windows between the cafeteria and the news-stand, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

10. First-day-of-issue cancellations can be obtained at a temporary United States Postal Service substation located outside the United Nations Bookshop in the concourse of the General Assembly Building, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

11. Information on United Nations stamps can be accessed on the Internet at http://unstamps.un.org.